

SILVER-EARED MESIA

Leiothrix argentauris ricketti

La Touche, 1923



PIERRE DE CHABANNES

CLASSIFICATION

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Leiothrichidae

7 other subspecies



APPENDIX II

RARE



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: The species grows to 17 cm in length for a weight of 29 g. Bright yellow bill, black head with silvery ear tuft and yellow forehead. Grey-green plumage with golden flight feathers, orange-red throat for this subspecies.

Range: Subspecies found in south China, nearby Laos and Vietnam. Species occurs from north India (Himalayas) to south China, south to Peninsular Malaysia.

Habitat : Evergreen, mixed forests with bushy undergrowth, plantations, to 2100 m.

Behavior: Lives in flocks when non breeding. The species feeds often in bushes, on insects, sometimes fruits, berries and seeds. Breeds nearly year round.

Status in the wild: The species has a large range and is common where suitable habitat is found. Some populations are depleted because of intense trapping for trade.

In captivity: This species is popular because of its amazing coloration and beautiful song. It has been caught and exported in big numbers and pure subspecies aren't always easy to find. This subspecies is common in captivity in Asia, rare elsewhere.